



An **Institute Council on Environmental Health and Safety** is being established at Georgia Tech. Formed in response to an external peer review last year, the Council will serve as a forum for development and implementation of policies and procedures for chemical, biological, radiological, occupational health and environmental health and safety and for the integration of policies developed by compliance oversight committees pursuant to federal laws and regulations.

The Council will provide information to schools, departments, laboratories and centers regarding compliance related to chemical, biological, radiological, environmental, and occupational health & safety programs. The Council will assess the effectiveness of these programs and risks of non-compliance. Council chair will be appointed by the Senior Vice President for Business and Finance and the Provost. Chairs of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, the Nuclear Safeguards Committee, The Institutional Biosafety Board for rDNA, the Biotechnology Safeguards Committee, the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, and the Chemical and Environmental Safety Committee serve as ex officio voting members. Non voting ex officio members include Legal Affairs, GTRC/OSP, Internal Audit, Research Compliance, Student Health Services and Human Resources.

Three new committees are being formed: The Occupational Health and Safety Committee, the Chemical and Environmental safety Committee, and the Biotechnology Safeguards Committee. *Draft* and federally mandated charges to the committees are shown below.

- *Draft* The **Occupational Health and Safety Committee** will develop policies and procedures to ensure workplace health and safety. This Committee will integrate the related policies promulgated by committees established in accordance with federal law and regulation. The Committee will

develop an Occupational Health Program for workers engaged in research, teaching, or other activities using animal models, research using human blood, tissues, or other products, biological materials, pathogenic organisms, toxins, select agents, chemicals and other hazardous materials or specialized equipment. The Committee will advise the Office of Environmental Health and Safety on the implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety Program. The Committee will periodically review the program for compliance and effectiveness and provide a report annually to the Assistant Vice President for Environmental Health and Safety. The Committee members will be appointed by the Senior Vice President for Business and Finance and the Provost.

- *Draft* The **Chemical and Environmental Safety Committee** will advise the Office of Environmental Health and Safety on policies regarding the safe acquisition, storage, use and disposal of chemicals in Georgia Tech facilities. The Committee will oversee the development of procedures by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety to develop and enforce chemical hygiene plans. The Committee will perform a periodic risk assessment and review of compliance with policies and procedures. The members of the Committee will be appointed by the Provost and the Senior Vice President for Business and Finance.
- *Draft* The **Biotechnology Safeguards Committee** (BSC) and the Department of Environmental Health and Safety are responsible for reviewing all applications for research, teaching, and training that involve the use of biological materials (except rDNA) including but not limited to pathogenic organisms (including select agents), etiological agents, infectious and non-infectious materials, and certain human samples at Georgia Tech and ensuring that the proposed activities comply with the federal regulations governing them. The BSC holds meetings as needed to review proposals. Georgia Tech's Biotechnology Safeguards Committee works closely with Georgia Tech's Responsible Official and Biosafety Officer in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety. The role of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety and the Institute Biosafety Officer is to ensure the safety of personnel working with these materials and that laboratory practices conform to federal and state regulations. The role of the Biotechnology Safeguards Committee is to review policies and procedures for biotechnology at Georgia Tech and advise on compliance methodologies. All research, teaching, and training activities involving these biological materials regardless of source of funding must be reviewed by the BSC. The Committee has the responsibility and authority to review, approve, disapprove, or require changes in research activities involving biological samples other than recombinant DNA materials. Committee membership is by invitation. The Chair is appointed by the Provost and Senior Vice President of Business and Finance. Members may be drawn from a variety of disciplines, including biology, chemistry, engineering, biomedical sciences, and the surrounding community.

Charge[1]: The **Institutional Biosafety Committee for rDNA** (IBC) and the Department of Environmental Health and Safety are responsible for reviewing all applications for research, teaching, and training that involve the use of recombinant DNA at Georgia Tech and ensuring that the proposed activities comply with the federal regulations governing them. The role of the Institute Biosafety Officer and the Department of Environmental Health and Safety is to ensure the safety of personnel working with these materials and that laboratory practices conform to federal and state regulations. The role of the IBC committee is both NIH compliance and beneficence. Recombinant DNA being considered in this context are those molecules which are constructed outside living cells or which result from the replication of constructed DNA within living cells. All research, teaching, and training activities involving recombinant DNA regardless of source of funding must be reviewed by the IBC. The Board has the responsibility and authority to review, approve, disapprove, or require changes in research activities involving recombinant DNA materials. The IBC holds meetings as needed to review proposals. Georgia Tech's Institutional Biosafety Board is registered with the National Institutes of Health's Office of Biotechnology Activities (OBA). IBC works closely with Georgia Tech's Responsible Official and Biosafety Officer in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Committee

membership is structured in accordance with federal requirements; members are appointed by the Vice Provost for Research. (<http://www.compliance.gatech.edu/IBC>)

Charge[1]: The **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee** (IACUC) and The Georgia Institute of Technology are committed to ensuring that animals involved in research and teaching receive humane care and treatment. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is charged with reviewing all faculty-, staff-, or student-proposed use of animals, regardless of where the work is performed and source of funding, if any. The IACUC has set forth procedures for reporting, without fear of reprisal, concerns about the humane use and treatment of animals utilized in research at Georgia Tech. This committee regularly inspects and monitors the animal care and use program at the Institute to ensure that all components are in compliance with regulations and guidelines outlined in the federal Animal Welfare Act. The animal facilities are registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and undergo frequent inspection by that agency. The IACUC meets monthly to review research proposals/protocols which involve animal subjects. Georgia Tech's Animal Welfare Assurance is approved by the Department of Health and Human Services. Committee membership is structured in accordance with federal requirements; members are appointed by the Associate Vice Provost for Research, who also serves as the Institutional Official for matters related to animal subjects. (<http://www.compliance.gatech.edu/IACUC/>)

Charge[1]: The **Nuclear Safeguards Committee** is responsible for maintaining the health and safety standards associated with the use of radioactive materials on the Georgia Tech campus and radiation generating devices at Georgia Tech. The committee meets quarterly, at a minimum, to review proposed experiments and tests utilizing radioactive material, the reactor facility, the hot cell facility, and all the other types of ionizing radiation on the Georgia Tech campus. The committee also reviews proposed and existing operating procedures and health physics procedures for the GTRR and audits reactor operations and plant equipment performance. Committee members are appointed by the President and serve three-year terms. (<http://www.ors.gatech.edu>)

[1] Faculty Handbook Section 34.2